

Remarks

Claims 1 and 4-23 were pending.

Claims 1, 5-10 and 20-22 are canceled.

Claim 11 is amended.

Claims 12, 16 and 17 are original.

Claims 13-15, 18, 19 and 23 are as previously presented.

Claims 24-31 are new.

The application now contains claims 11-19 and 23-31.

The claims are amended to reflect Applicants acceptance of the Examiner's intended examiner's amendment limiting the claims to nano-composite claims which seem to be allowable. Given the complicated April schedules of both Applicants agent and the Examiner, the issues involved could not be sufficiently resolved over the phone. Applicants have submitted the present amendments in the belief that the instantly amended claims are consistent with the Examiner's intent. If the Examiner were to find that the instant amendments do not correlate with what the Examiner had in mind, then Applicants would kindly ask that the Examiner either contact Applicants' agent in an attempt to remedy any small remaining issues or reopen prosecution as suggested in the present Action.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue any deleted material in subsequent continuation applications.

Claim 11 is amended to delete the phrase "according to claim 1" at the end of Step A and to insert instead the necessary limitations from now cancelled claim 1. For additional clarity, the description of Step B has been moved to before the structures defining the various formulae. Also for additional clarity, the definition of interrelated variables Q1 and T8 has been moved from immediately following the definition of Y to immediately following the definition of T7. Applicants also point out that the variables which relate only to formula II are placed at the end of the claim beginning with the phrase "wherein in formula II". Support is found in previously submitted claims 1 and 11.

Support for new claims 24 and 25 is found in now cancelled claims 4 and 9 which were fully dependent on claim 1. Applicants believe that the inclusion of new claim 24 and 25 further limiting claim 11, as claims 4 and 9 further limited claim 1, is appropriate in light of the present cancellation of all compound claims 1-10. Redundant material present in the earlier claims is deleted.

Support for new claims 26 and 27 is found in original claims 1, 8, 10 and 11. Original claim 11, through inclusion of all compounds of original claim 1 encompassed all of the instant compounds. During prosecution, amendments to compound claim 1 lead to amendments making claims 8 and 10 and others independent. In the previous 2 amendments, Applicants had been under the impression that the compound claims would be allowable and that valuable protection for the compounds of claims 8 and 10 would be available. In light of the present efforts to limit the claims to nano-composite claims, Applicants feel that inclusion of new claims 26 and 27 to capture material from claims 8 and 10 is appropriate.

Applicants kindly ask that the examiner consider the new claims, even though after final, as there are currently less claims than existed prior to the instant amendments and all the material found in the new claims has been previously examined. Applicants further believe that the new claims are within the bounds of the Examiner's intended amendment.

No new matter is added.

Rejections

In the present Action the Examiner cites additional art that disclose hindered amines which may be similar to the instant compounds, but stated that except for 1 case, US 7,214,729, no disclosures of the instant HALS and nano-clays could be found.

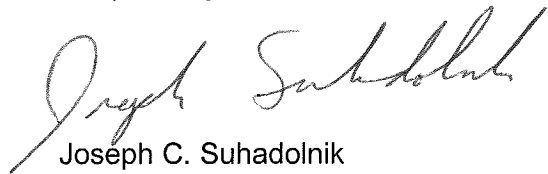
Given the late stage of prosecution, and in deference to the amount of work already invested in the present examination, Applicants have decided to presently delete the compounds claims 1-10 from the instant application. Upon reviewing all the newly cited art Applicants will make a decision regarding the filing of a continuation application to reclaim this material.

Regarding US 7,214,729, Applicants respectfully point out that US 7,214,729 claims priority from two provisional applications, the earliest of which is US 60/419,263 filed on October 17, 2002. The instant application has an earlier priority date of July 24, 2002 and thus US 7,214,729 can not be used as prior art against the instant application.

Applicants further note that there is no overlap between the claims of US 7,214,729 directed to a polypropylene composition comprising flame retardants and certain hindered amines and those of the instant application directed to aqueous dispersions of nano-clays, cationically substituted HALS and reactive monomers. Thus, even though the instant application and the cited patent are both assigned to the same entity, no need exists for any terminal disclaimers.

Applicants respectfully submit that all objections are addressed and are overcome and kindly ask that they be withdrawn and claims 11-19 and 23-31 found allowable. In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the examiner contact the undersigned representative. Should the Examiner find that the instant amendments do not correlate with what the Examiner feels is appropriate in light of the present Action and that the remaining issues can not be resolved by contacting the undersigned, then Applicants would kindly ask that the Examiner reopen prosecution as suggested in the Action.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph C. Suhadolnik
Agent for Applicants
Reg. No. 56,880
filed under 37 CFR 1.34(a)

Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corporation
Patent Department
540 White Plains Road
P.O. Box 2005
Tarrytown, NY 10591-9005
Tel. (914) 785-2973
Fax (914) 785-7102